

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 720

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL TASH**, on April 17, 2003 at 8:00
A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bill Tash, Chairman (R)
Rep. Daniel S. Hurwitz, Vice-Chairman (R)
Sen. Keith Bales (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Rep. Cindy Younkin (R)
Rep. Larry Jent (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Doug Sternberg, Legislative Branch
Mari Prewett, Committee Secretary

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 720, 4/15/2003
Executive Action:

The proposed amendment offered by REP. YOUNKIN was distributed to the Committee and is attached as Exhibit 1.

EXHIBIT (cch83hb0720a01)

REP. YOUNKIN explained the purpose for her amendments. She then discussed the background of the bill for purposes of clarification.

Motion: **REP. YOUNKIN** moved that the **AMENDMENT TO HB 720 BE ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

SEN. NELSON indicated that she would like to have interested parties respond to the proposed amendments.

John Bloomquist, Montana Stockgrowers Association, stated that he was comfortable with the proposed amendments.

Bob Lane, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, responded that they felt it was a good amendment and would preserve the intent of the sponsor.

Jack Stults, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, stated that the amendment made the bill very workable.

SEN. NELSON commended **REP. YOUNKIN** on bringing the parties together.

REP. JENT commented that he was satisfied with the bill with the proposed amendment.

REP. HURWITZ discussed time lines with **Jack Stults.**

Mr. Stults provided the Committee with two handouts, attached as **EXHIBIT (cch83hb0720a02)** and **EXHIBIT (cch83hb0720a03).** **Mr. Stults** referred to the handouts and explained how they processed the applications and the related time lines for completion of the process.

REP. HURWITZ asked **REP. YOUNKIN** if the 180 day requirement was a problem with the people she had been working with. **REP. YOUNKIN** replied that what worried her, was if they shortened the time frame, the Department would not be able to process the applications within the specified period of time and the applications being rejected.

SEN. BALES and **Mr. Stults** discussed Exhibit 2, and the processing time for applications.

SEN. BALES expressed his concerns regarding the 180 days allowed to process applications. He went on to say he felt the bill was allowing too much time.

REP. YOUNKIN and **Mr. Stults** talked about the publication process for the applications.

SEN. NELSON asked Mr. Stults if the fiscal note was tied to the 180 day time frame. **Mr. Stults** replied that it was.

SEN. BALES asked for further clarification of the application process. **Mr. Stults** talked to his concerns.

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SEN. TASH asked **REP. JENT** to clarify the application time lines. **REP. JENT** referred to the bill and explained how the application process worked.

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SEN. BALES expressed his concerns, especially in times of drought, and stated that he would like to see a shorter process time.

SEN. BALES asked John Bloomquist if he would comment on the time frame. **Mr. Bloomquist** responded that the 180 days would at least put a time restraint on the process. He went on to say that a shorter time frame would be better, but at least it was a starting point.

Mr. Stults related to the Committee his goals for the future development of the application process.

Vote: Motion that the AMENDMENT TO HB 720 BE ADOPTED carried 6-0 by voice vote.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved THAT HB 720 BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED. Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved that the CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BE ADOPTED. Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:38 A.M.

SEN. BILL TASH, Chairman

MARI PREWETT, Secretary

DH/BT/MP

EXHIBIT (cch83hb0720aad)